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CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** 1853-01  
**File No.:** April 30th, 2008  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Cultural Services Manager  
**Subject:** Professional Arts Grants Recommendations

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT City Council approves grants of \$20,000 to the Alternator Gallery, \$25,000 to Ballet Kelowna and \$50,000 to the Okanagan Symphony funded from the 2008 Cultural Services budget for Professional Arts organizations.

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 4, 2006 Council approved moving the administration and funding for professional arts organizations from the Kelowna Arts Foundation to the Cultural Services Department. Council also approved the creation of a peer review jury led by Cultural Services to adjudicate the professional arts grants.

In February 2008 the following individuals were chosen from the community for their professional expertise to adjudicate the professional arts grants applications: (Biographies are attached)

Manuela Ungureanu	Associate Professor, UBC Okanagan
Mary Smith McCulloch	Artist – Professor Emeritus, UBC Okanagan
Earla Henderson	Kelowna Arts Foundation Director

City Staff: Sheila MacGregor CMA, City of Kelowna Financial Analyst

On April 22, 2008 the jury met to deliberate the applications and to make funding recommendations based on available budget.



Three 2007 returning jury members commented on the continuing increase in artistic quality and programming within all three organizations. Applications were evaluated on a number of specific criteria including:

- Impact of programs in the community
- Diversification of Revenues
- Opportunities for new Artists and Youth
- Exploration of new forms of expression
- Audience development
- Finances and Governance

Panel members reviewed each application in detail and then deliberated as a group. Some specific highlights from the applications are as follows:

Ballet Kelowna now in it's fifth year of operation continues to show steady growth in artistic direction and audience development. Financial accomplishments have been achieved with the addition of a new fund development position and revenues are steadily increasing and an endowment fund established. Since their Main Stage Showcase performance at BC Touring Council's Pacific Contact in March, Ballet Kelowna has developed national and international recognition. In 2008, Ballet Kelowna has collaborated with the Canadian School of Ballet and a community task force to create the Okanagan Summer Dance Intensive, under the Artistic Direction of David LaHay. OSDI is bringing exceptional dance students and faculty from around Canada who would have participated in the Banff Summer School of Dance, which has been closed, to Kelowna for a five-week program housed at UBCO Campus and Canadian School of Ballet. This new program will bring further attention to the City of Kelowna, which is emerging as a major centre for dance.

The Okanagan Symphony reported a number of successes this season including six sold-out shows. Their new Music Director is in place and a diverse and exciting program will be presented next season with 19 concerts (up from 16 this year). The organization has moved from a deficit of \$400,000 in 2004 to a deficit of \$130,000 at year end 2006 to a break even position in year end 2007. The deficit is erased and a strong endowment fund established. Subscription sales are up two years running, as are single ticket sales. A number of collaborative presentations are planned with local community groups such as Chamber Music Kelowna, Community Concerts and Ballet Kelowna. The Symphony is also in positive, ongoing discussions with the Kamloops Symphony and the Vancouver Symphony regarding specific collaborative performances in upcoming seasons. A strategic planning and vision session with community leaders, musicians, board members and others was held in November and December 2007. This important exercise launched an ongoing self examination and planning process that will continue after the close of the current season.

The Alternator Gallery is the only professional artist-run space in the B.C. Interior and it plays a critical role in encouraging and supporting the exhibition, production and dissemination of contemporary art in the region. The Alternator supports the artistic community by providing an accessible space for emerging artists to display their work and exchange ideas and knowledge. In 2008 the gallery is co-hosting a prestigious national festival, *On Common Ground*, with the Independent Media Arts Alliance, a national organization that supports some 12,000 independent film video, audio and new media artist and cultural workers. The gallery has undertaken five cultural exchanges with Quebec artists over the last decade and is working on an international commission project with the South Asian Visual Arts Collective in Toronto. The Alternator was also selected by the 2010 Cultural Olympiad for a \$118,000 commissioning project of new work by three leading BC artists. The work will be showcased

at the Alternator and will be exhibited by artists elsewhere, further increasing the profile of the Alternator and the Okanagan in general.

Overall high marks were given by jury members in each area of evaluation. Members felt strongly that the citizens of Kelowna are fortunate to have the diversity of professional artistic offerings in our community and that the organizations are to be commended for the work that they do.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:** The existing base budget for professional arts organizations for 2008 is \$130,000 and the remaining budget for professional arts grants is \$95,000.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:**

**LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**EXISTING POLICY:**

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

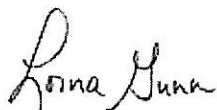
**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:**

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:**

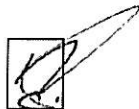
Submitted by:



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L. Gunn  
Cultural Services Manager  
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

Approved for Inclusion:



*David Graham, Director*

Cc: David Graham, Director – Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services  
Keith Grayston, Financial Planning Manager, Financial Services

Attachment

## ***2008 Professional Art Grants Adjudication Panel Biographies***

### ***Mary Smith McCulloch***

Mary Smith McCulloch was born in Ardrishaig, Argyll, Scotland. She was educated at the Glasgow School of Art and immigrated to Canada in 1967. From 1973 until her retirement in May 2000 she was a professor of Fine Arts at Okanagan University College. She continues today as Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies UBC Okanagan.

Mary has exhibited extensively in Canada and Great Britain and has participated in numerous printmaking biennial and triennials in the former Yugoslavia, The Netherlands, India, Slovenia, Poland and Germany. Mary has her work in public art collection in Canada and Great Britain. Locally her work is in the permanent collections of the Kelowna Art Gallery, the Vernon Art Gallery and the Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton. In Kelowna she is represented by the Art Ark Gallery.

### ***Manuela Ungureanu***

Manuela graduated in 1999 with a PhD in Philosophy of language from McGill University, Montreal, having obtained a BA Hon Major in Philosophy, and Minor in History from the University of Bucharest in 1986.

From 1998-99 she worked as a Post-doctoral Fellow at Queen's University, a position which she had to decline during the second year of tenure to take on a position at OUC as Assistant Professor of Philosophy. In 2005 she started working as an Associate Professor at UBCO. Since immigrating to Canada in 1997, Manuela published mainly in Canadian journals: Dialogue, Philosophical Review, and assisted as referee for the Canadian Philosophical Association (2003, 2004, 2008).

Manuela was a member of the Board of the Penticton Academy of Music and Penticton & District Arts Council until 2005 when she moved to Summerland. She also acted as organizer for the Children's Choir of the Penticton Academy of Music since its inception in 2003 and until 2006. She has a certificate in piano performance obtained in 1980, enjoys playing chamber music, singing in the Okanagan Festival Singers and organizing the new series of concerts and master classes for UBCO called Minds and Music.

### ***Earla Henderson***

Earla moved to Toronto at the age of 12 years to study ballet under Ms Betty Oliphant and Ms. Celia Franca who was the founder of the National Ballet of Canada. In later years she was offered a position to teach ballet in Toronto but instead moved to Edmonton, Alberta to operate her own ballet school. During this period she was President of the Canadian Dance Teachers Association.

After twenty years she retired and became a student at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Arts, and graduated with a degree double majoring in psychology and sociology. Thereafter, she studied at the University of Alberta and graduated with a certificate to teach English as a second language.

Earla has volunteered for many arts organizations including serving as President of the Arts Council in Okotoks, Alberta and more recently she has held many positions on the Board of the City of Kelowna Arts Foundation. Earla is also currently Concert Chair for the Kelowna Community Concert Association.

### ***Sheila MacGregor, CMA***

Sheila MacGregor currently works in the Financial Accounting Department at the City of Kelowna in the position of Financial Analyst. She received her CMA professional designation in 2007, and her previous work experience includes marketing and financial planning, in addition to accounting. She has considerable expertise working with non-profit organizations.

In addition to her financial background, Sheila has a longstanding interest in the arts. Sheila is a qualified music teacher and taught music at the Kelowna Community Music School, where she developed a pre-school program called Creative Music for Children in addition to teaching private piano lessons. Her interest in the arts continues, as she recently toured Europe with her four oldest daughters who make up the musical group The MacGregors.

Other interests include volunteering with an organization called Hope for the Nations, where she and her daughters traveled to northern Thailand to assist in children's homes. More recently, she is involved in starting a children's home in Tanzania.